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PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
THE ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY.

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1837.

No. 3.

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February 13.

Rev. F. SADLEIR, D. D., F. T. C. D., Vice-President,  
in the Chair.

REV. Thomas Knox, George J. Knox, Esq., and Andrew  
S. Hart, Esq., F. T. C. D., were elected members of the  
Academy.

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Doctor Gregory read a paper, entitled, "Examination  
of Eblanine, a substance discovered by Mr. Scanlan, and  
exhibited by him at the Meeting of the British Association."  
By Professor Apjohn and Dr. Gregory.

Eblanine is contained in pyroxilic spirit. It is yellow,  
crystalline, fusible at  $318^{\circ}$ , volatile in a current of air at  $300^{\circ}$ ,  
not subliming in a close tube unchanged. It is insoluble in  
water and alkalies, soluble with a strong yellow colour in  
alcohol, ether, and concentrated acetic acid. Strong sul-  
phuric acid strikes with it a deep bluish purple colour, soon  
passing to brownish black. Strong muriatic acid dissolves  
it sparingly with a very fine and intense purplish red colour,  
which also slowly passes into brownish black. Nitric acid  
dissolves it, and from the solution water separates a yellow  
solid, which, at a certain temperature, is decomposed sud-  
denly with a very feeble explosion. Chlorine converts it  
into a dark resinous matter.

Eblanine is anhydrous, and contains no nitrogen.

The mean of 4 analyses gave as the composition in 100 parts,

Carbon, . . . . .	75.275
Hydrogen, . . . . .	5.609
Oxygen, . . . . .	19.116

The composition, calculated according to the formula  $C_{21}H_9O_4$ , would give

Carbon, . . . . .	75.79
Hydrogen, . . . . .	5.30
Oxygen, . . . . .	18.91

But as we have as yet no means of ascertaining the atomic weight of eblanine, this result must be viewed merely as an approximation.

Eblanine cannot be confounded with any known substance, and must rank as a curious addition to the list of compounds produced in the destructive distillation of wood; to which must also be added, aldehyd, a substance lately discovered by Liebig, but first pointed out as existing in pyroxilic spirit, by Mr. Scanlan, who obtained it before the discovery of Liebig was known in Dublin.

Sir William Betham read the first of a series of papers "On the Cabiric Mysteries and Phœnician Antiquities."

In this paper the author stated his conviction that the Cabiri were a secret society or brotherhood, who concealed their acquirements in science and the arts from all but the initiated; that this society originated with the Phœnicians, and was for a very long period confined to that people and their colonies; that the arts of navigation, mining, &c., the science of astronomy, and indeed all other branches of knowledge with which they were acquainted, were enveloped by them in mystic fables and allegories, to conceal them from the vulgar; and that from these was derived the whole system of mythological theology of the Greeks and Romans.

The word Cabiri, in Celto-Phœnician, literally means *the confederacy or brotherhood of science*. Cabar is *a confederacy or secret society, i., of science*. The four *degrees or steps of initiation* into this order, were named *Axieros*, *Axiochersa*, *Axiochersus*, and *Camillus*, or *Casmilos*. These were made deities by the Greeks, the Phœnicians themselves encouraging or perhaps propagating an error, the explanation of which was part of the secrets of the confederacy. The confederacy itself originated at a very early period of Phœnician history, and seems to have partaken of the essence of the policy by which that people aimed to keep the world in ignorance, and to carry on in secret their extensive operations in commerce, navigation, and mining; the secrets of these arts being enveloped in terrible mysteries, which deterred the ignorant and unenlightened from interference. By these means they succeeded in securing to themselves for ages the exclusive sovereignty of the seas, the entire commerce, and the greater part of the wealth of the world.

The discovery of the identity of the Celtic and Phœnician tongues has led to the exposition of the true meaning of the names and nature of these imaginary Cabiric deities, which the author explained as follows:—

*Axieros*.—The first step.—*The initiation by the shedding of blood*.

*Axiochersa*.—The second degree.—*The communication to the ear of the more important secret of silence*.

*Axiochersus*.—The third degree.—*The communication to the ear of the silent secrecy of experience*.

*Camillus*, or *Casmilos*.—The fourth degree.—*The perfection of all knowledge*.

*Vulcan* is said to have been the father or founder of the Cabiri. This name in Celtic signifies *the profound metallurgist, smith, or worker in metals*; *Fol Gaun*, or *Bal Gaun*, *the lord smith*. It is also worthy of remark, that in Sanconia-

thon's account of the descent or pedigree from the first man, Vulcan stands contemporary with *Tubal Cain* of the Scriptures, who was the "instructor of every artificer in brass and iron;" and this last name is of the same signification in the Celto-Phœnician, i. e. *the celebrated lord smith, or metallurgist.*

The author concluded by observing, that such members of the Academy as were Freemasons must be struck by analogies which he could not more clearly explain.

#### DONATIONS.

A copy of the Ordnance Survey of the County of Cavan, in 46 sheets. Presented by Lieut. Colonel Colby.

*Asiatic Researches*, Vol. 20, Part I. Presented by Mr. Princep.

*Anglorum Feriae, Englandes Holydayes, &c.* Presented by W. H. Fitch, Esq.

*Transactions of the Institution of Civil Engineers*, Vol. 1. Presented by the Council of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

*Letters on the Conduct of Charles Purton Cooper, Esq., Secretary to the Commission of Public Records, and on the General Management of the Commission.* By Mr. Henry Cole. Presented by C. P. Cooper, Esq.

*Letters from Eminent Historical Writers, relating to the Publications of the Board of Commissioners on the Public Records.* Presented by the same.

*Observations, Letters, and Opinions of the Commissioners, on the Constitution and Duties of the Record Commission.* Presented by the same.